

[26th February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a regularly body to monitor the functioning of the Cable TV industry in order to address the problems of gullible consumers *i.e.* the cable TV viewers; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not setting up such a regulatory body on the lines of TRAI?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) A large number of Content Providers (Satellite Channels) and Cable operators are operating in India. The monthly rates of subscription charged by Cable operators from the individual consumer depends on factors such as location, number of channels provided, number of Cable TV operators in the particular area etc. As reported recently in the newspapers, the Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission had issued notices to television networks for over-charging subscribers of pay channels. Cable operators are also regulated by provisions of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

Settlement of Dues with Prasar Bharati

415. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the details of the arrangements reached with different celebrities like Shri Amitabh Bachchan to settle their dues with Prasar Bharati, indicating the interest and other dues written-off or otherwise settled?

(THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Admission of SC/ST Students in Indian Institute of Mass Communication

416. VENTBLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by Prime Minister recommended for ensuring admission of students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of the quota of seats reserved for this community in all the educational/academic institutions in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;